

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY



Naturalist Quarterly

Winter 2021

ANSHOME.ORG



New Year's
Resolutions



ANS NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

The Audubon Naturalist Society inspires residents of the greater Washington, DC region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

HEADQUARTERS

Woodend, a 40-acre wildlife sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

Sunday 12-5 PM

GROUNDWORKS HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$15

Individual \$50

Family \$65

Nature Steward \$100

Audubon Advocate \$200

Sanctuary Guardian \$500

Naturalists Council \$1,000

Preservationist \$1,000+

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Naturalist Quarterly

ANShome.org Winter 2021

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COVER Photo of Barred Owl by Jane Gamble.

From the Director

A Shining Example

Dear ANS members and friends,

We all know that free and fair elections are the hallmark of our democracy, and that all elections are important for the environment. But if you're like me, you watched election week unfold with a sense of sadness, realizing that so many people in our nation hold a completely different world view. I feel especially dismayed that nearly half of our country's electorate voted to stick with an administration that rolled back environmental protections, ignored the climate crisis, and repudiated calls for environmental and social justice.

As our nation works through the ramifications of this year's tumultuous election, I want you to know that Audubon Naturalist Society will never waiver in our fight to preserve vulnerable habitats, protect all living things from pollution, teach new generations to love the environment and ensure that Nature for All is the gold standard for our region.

Despite the stressors of the pandemic and political divides, you can count on ANS to demonstrate that environmental wins are possible, across state lines and political parties. (Be sure to read the article on page 26 about ACE legislation, a rare bipartisan win for the environment). Our work leads the way. ANS has shown that we can have forests in urban centers, install solar that doesn't destroy habitats, that we can keep plastic bags and Styrofoam out of our streams and rivers, and inspire Homeowners Associations to plant native plants, that children can teach their parents how to save energy at home, and that nature can be accessible to all people.

Let's go into the year ahead thinking of nature as the great uniter. Nature as the source of healing. Nature as a treasured resource that makes all of our lives better.

One of the challenges of living in the DC region is that this is a high stress place. But one of the blessings of working here is that ANS serves a community of activists. Our strength is in our collective voices that fight for environmental education in schools, that rise up for the protection of forests and trees, that lift up the importance of clean air, clean water and a swift response to climate change, that call out to eliminate environmental injustice wherever it appears. So, while nature will continue to be a source of solace, it will also inspire our ongoing fight to make this region the best example of living and legislating sustainably that our country has ever seen.

ANS will today, and for the future, be a positive, shining, and unifying example of what's possible. We will continue building partnerships with new communities, healing broken habitats, restoring waterways and protecting the precious natural world that all creatures, human or otherwise, rely on for sustenance, for breath and for life. We will show, over and over again, how nature can heal. And we will change peoples' minds about the importance of voting to protect nature.

Our work is so grounding, literally. Every day, we help open the eyes of people of all ages to the beauty and wonder of the natural world, from the wiggling of a worm to the subtle wing bars on a warbler. And when we help restore peoples' innate love of nature, we help restore their spirits too. We will keep finding new ways to ensure that day to day, advocacy fight to advocacy fight, we improve the quality of life for people and wildlife in our region. Count on ANS to deliver on our mission every day, and to promote our vision of a larger, more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.

Your generous support at this year's end will enable ANS to serve as the shining example of how nature can unite us all, today and for the future.

Wishing you a safe holiday filled with time in nature,



Staff Recommendations for the Holidays from the Naturalist Shop



the mask to get caught on.

Kristin Cook, Database and Email Assistant



for bird feed. I had no idea but I would soon find out when I watched squirrels foiled by the feeder's design. My family loves watching birds feasting at our feeder.

Vince Robinson, Webmaster & Social Media Manager



every subject, but my family's favorites are: Sibley Birds East; NWF's Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America; and Peterson Field Guides' Eastern Forests.

Rebecca Henson, Naturalist Shop Specialist



easy to find anywhere else.

Denis Perez, Environmental Educator

My absolute favorite thing is the Natural History earring collection that features many of my most beloved and sometimes underappreciated, creatures -- spiders, bats, snakes, various birds, and even mushrooms. They are so unique as well as delicate. As an added bonus, they are mask-friendly as most of them are small and do not dangle from your ear, there is nothing for

The Naturalist Shop has always been a great place to find unique and engaging toys and games for my young daughters. But my first and still favorite purchase for myself was the Squirrel Buster Bird Feeder. This was my first-ever bird feeder and I was surprised to find so many varieties. At the shop, Rebecca was a great help! She recommended the Squirrel Buster, explaining that squirrels had a healthy appetite

As a mom of two young boys, my favorite shop items are often things that I have seen spark an interest in children, even if not intended for children. Field guides, with interesting facts and pictures galore, are super easy for children to use and provide good practice for identification and analytical skills-- they are basically seek-and-finds for our natural world. The shop has field guides on practically

I don't know where to start. Every time I enter the ANS Shop, I find something I want to take home. The nature book selection is amazing! The last book I bought was The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds, which has helped to improve my sketching outdoors. Also, I love the collection of puzzles, especially during these stay-at-home days. Puzzles from Charley Harper's designs are my favorite and are not

The Audubon Naturalist Shop's proceeds support our mission work. It is open Mondays-Saturdays 11 am-3 pm (closed Wednesday and Sunday)
Call 301-652-3606 for more info on any of these gift ideas.

New Year's Resolutions

by Lisa Alexander, Executive Director

Oh how I miss our big ANS gatherings and the joy of putting our heads close together to marvel at something in nature. Please know how thankful I am to each and every one of you for joining ANS on our extraordinary journey to protect nature for all people and all wildlife. For the ANS community, this past year has been especially difficult. But we can take heart in knowing that nature has and always will be here for us in challenging times. I am reminded every day that our fight to protect nature is more important than ever now. Because none of us can live without a healthy natural world.

That's why your support for ANS is so critical right now. We are fortunate because DC metro region voters supported clean air, clean water and environmental protections in the recent election. But it is sobering to think of how many Americans did not vote to defend nature. So we must do better. We must ensure that all our newly elected officials have the facts they need to champion strong environmental policies. We must make certain that every resident of the DC region understands their own impact on the natural world around them. And we must raise more collective voices to demand restoration of gutted environmental protections. We have no time to lose.

That's why our education and outreach programs are so important. Our mission is to teach ALL people how to live in an environmentally friendly way that improves the quality of life for every living creature in our region. And we can only do this good and important work with your help. Despite the pandemic that has so severely impacted our programs, we are still fighting every day to protect the environment. As an ANS member and supporter, you can be proud of all the ways we are leveraging your generous gifts to do good mission work in our region during the pandemic. With your help, we are:

- Providing "nature lesson plans to go" for Zoom classrooms across our region
- Building community coalitions to fight development that threatens rare remaining natural areas
- Running afterschool nature programs for children who spend hours each day staring at screens
- Engaging hundreds of people from diverse backgrounds in environmental advocacy through our Naturally Latinos and Taking Nature Black conferences
- Monitoring the health of our local streams to protect our drinking water supplies and provide healthy habitats for wildlife
- Keeping our sanctuaries open to the public, free of charge, for people to find solace in nature right now when they need it the most

Your gift at year end will ensure this good work continues. Please help by going to anshome.org/donate.

As we say goodbye to 2020, ANS is proud of major victories including getting good environmental policies passed, standing in the way of climate busting projects like Beltway expansion, and strengthening forest conservation laws despite all the rollbacks at the federal level. And even with an incoming administration committed to a green recovery, we have much lost ground to make up.



Great Blue Heron by Jane Gamble

And as we make New Year's resolutions, let's each one of us find something to do in our own lives to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. Whether it's walking instead of driving, installing solar, keeping our cars from idling, buying electricity from renewable sources, or signing up to be an ANS advocate at <https://anshome.org/take-action>, every one of us can take an action to combat the negatives effects of climate change that are so damaging to our communities.

Here are some of ANS's New Year's Resolutions for 2021:

- We will make children's experiences with science and nature fun and exciting so that we hook them on environmental stewardship today and for the future.
- We will deliver effective environmental education programs to our public school systems on the platforms that are most helpful to our region's stressed teachers.
- We will train, empower and support individuals and communities to advocate aggressively to safeguard precious green space, protect natural habitats and preserve wildlife in our region.
- We will stand up as fierce champions and allies in the work to bring environmental justice to our highly urbanized region.
- We will fight to eliminate forest loss, hold local governments accountable to set net zero carbon goals, and increase our region's resilience to the impacts of climate change.
- We will demonstrate how easy, beautiful and doable green infrastructure can be through the restoration projects now excitingly underway at Woodend.

Our time to act is now—for our precious wildlife, for our wonderful natural world, and for our children's futures. Together, we will make 2021 a happier and healthier New Year for people and nature.



Northern Cardinal by Jane Gamble

Being Thankful

"Thank you so much for taking amazing care of our kids. The way camp is organized, from the masked Hula Hoop drop-offs to the last-minute emergency indoor pickup, is extremely impressive and I feel very comfortable about my son's safety each day." – Hillary

"Your staff are repeatedly referred to as leaders within the communities you serve, providing ways for people to give their voice through testimony, meetings, rallies and letters." – D. Keith Campbell, Chair, The Campbell Foundation

"Thank you ANS...I rarely hear environmental and social justice advocacy considered together in such depth. I've been an ANS member for many years but never knew the extent of your involvement in the social justice aspect of environment. I'm gonna make a donation right now! Thanks for all you do!" – Maureen

"I was so excited to see your e-mail telling us about ANS trips in November and December that I wanted to sign up right away, before any of the trips had filled. I'm really thankful to everyone at ANS for offering these field trips. My two favorite activities—singing in my church choir and going on field trips—have been unavailable for months, as you know. It will be so nice to be birding and botanizing along the tow path again with Stephanie and my ANS friends. Thanks for all the work you do at ANS to make this possible—and thanks for your reports on birds arriving, leaving, or passing through near your home." – Carol Anne

"This was one of the very best Zoom presentations I have seen during this pandemic! Kudos to ANS for this wonderful and engaging presentation by Dr. Ramsey. He is truly a treasure and I look forward to more of his and other ANS Naturalist Hour presentations! I have watched several Smithsonian Zoom presentations over the past months and while some have been interesting, the quality of the ANS Naturalist hour speakers and presentations is far superior in my mind. Thanks for all the wonderful work your staff is doing." – Adria

We at the Audubon Naturalist Society were proud to host our 3rd [Naturally Latinos Conference](#) on December 2, 3 and 4. With more than 50 panelists and speakers from the Latinx community, conference participants were engaged and inspired to take action! On December 4th, we saluted eight Latinx environmental leaders. The 2020 Environmental Champion awards recognize service that improves the quality of life for Latinx communities in ways that are unique, groundbreaking, and pioneering.

Meet our newest champions here:



[Sindy Benavides](#) is a *National Environmental Champion*. Sindy is CEO of LULAC and has integrated environmental justice into a career of advocating for Latinx communities throughout the U.S. She's led efforts to hold the EPA's feet to the fire on dangerous pesticides and has given voice to the Latinx community in the Tim Kaine Virginia governor's administration and presidential campaign.



[Pinar Ates Sinopoulos Lloyd \(they/them\)](#) is a *National Environmental Champion*. Pinar does groundbreaking work through Queer Nature, an "organism" stewarding earth-based queer community through ancestral skills, nature-connection, and rites of passage.



Regional Environmental Champion
[Alonso Abugattas](#) is the Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County, a well-known naturalist, author, and instructor. As The Capital Naturalist on social media, he shares wonders of the natural world through his photography and writing. Longtime Co-Chair of the Beltway Chapter of the National Association for Interpretation, Alonso is also an award-winning Certified Heritage Interpreter.



[Abel Olivo](#), co-founder and CEO of Defensores De La Cuenca, and a board member of the Audubon Naturalist Society since 2019, is a *Regional Environmental Champion*. Defensores De La Cuenca is an organization dedicated to bringing more resources and opportunities to the Latino community in order to grow a dedicated group of defenders for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

NATURALLY LATINOS 3 CONFERENCE



[Brenda Perez Amador](#), Green Fellow at the Washington, DC Department of Energy & Environment, is a community organizer working to improve residents' relationships with their natural and built environment. Recognizing that climate change is a time-sensitive issue, Perez brings together multiethnic and multilingual

communities and puts youth participation at the forefront, making her a *Local Environmental Champion*.



[Carlos Lam](#), founder and president of Asociación Guatemaltecos Sin Fronteras, runs campaigns to assist those in need after natural disasters in Central America and to assist communities here at home hit hard by COVID-19. A *Local Environmental Champion*, he is also the Director of Community Outreach for Defensores de la

Cuenca, an organization dedicated to connecting our local Latinx community to the natural world.



[Carlos Sanchez Gonzalez](#), who is part of a youth-led group that stopped the biggest incinerator in U.S. history from being built in South Baltimore, is the *Youth Environmental Champion*. Only 19, this young champion continues to testify at city council hearings to advocate for the need to end incineration in Baltimore City and pursue a Zero Waste Future.



The late [Julián Carrillo](#), a member of Mexico's Rarámuri indigenous people, was honored for his work as an environmental activist who defended the natural resources of the las Colorados region of Chihuahua against illegal logging and mining. He

received numerous death threats in response to his activism and was killed in 2018. He defended the forest with his life and is our *Legacy Environmental Champion*.

This is the third Naturally Latinos Conference. The 2020 conference theme, "Una Comunidad, Many Voices," underscores the reality that the Latinx community is not monolithic – that Indigenous, Afro-Latinx, and LGBTQ+ perspectives matter.



Taking Nature Black® is an event, an opportunity, a time to pause for the cause. It's a regional and national environmental lovefest we call a conference. It's a Black healing, welcoming, organizing, networking space, bursting with leaders, speakers, creators, innovators, scientists, educators, musicians, artists, and entertainers telling their stories about everything from climate change to environmental justice and environmental joy. It's a place to meet old friends and make new ones. So, you know what you have to do, right? **JOIN US!**

Our 2021 celebration will run virtually from Tuesday, February 23 – Saturday, February 27, with select outdoor activities. Our theme is ***Call and Response: Elevating our Stories, Naturally!***

Our confirmed speakers list is growing by the day, so please stay tuned to www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black for updates, and enjoy the world class presenters below who have confirmed so far!

Beatra Wilson, MPA, Assistant Director for Urban & Community Forestry, U.S. Forest Service

Derrick Evans, Director of Turkey Creek Community Initiatives, former Civil Rights History Professor, Sixth Generation Native of Turkey Creek, Mississippi, Community Organizer Extraordinaire, star of the acclaimed documentary *Come Hell or High Water*

Thomas RaShad Easley, Assistant Dean for Community and Inclusion at Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a musician known as RaShad. His art is called "Save Your Life Music," because he puts a message of love, embracing self and helping others in his music.

Sacoby Wilson, PhD, Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park

Evelyn Cooper, PhD, Assistant Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland

Jason Ward, Naturalist, Birder, Activist, new Chief Diversity Officer for the American Bird Conservancy, Host of *Birds of America*, Founder and CEO of BlackAFinSTEM

Tykee James, Birder, Co-founder of #BlackBirdersWeek, Government Affairs Coordinator for the National Audubon Society, Co-Founder of BlackAFinSTEM

Chanceé Lundy, Engineer and Founder of InspireGreen, a firm that combines engineering and urban planning with community organizing, Member of the Board of Directors for ANS

Karen Wilson Ama'Echefu, PhD, Master Storyteller, Singer, Spoken Word Artist, Cultural Historian



Beatra Wilson



Derrick Evans

Lolita



Thomas RaShad Easley



Sacoby Wilson



Evelyn Cooper



Jason Ward



Tykee James

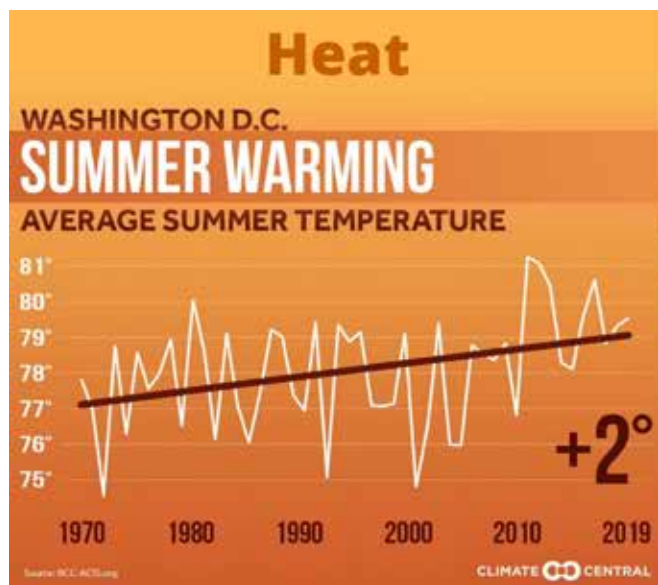


Chanceé Lundy



**Karen Wilson
Ama'Echefu**

Conservation



September 10, 2020 flooding in Washington, DC.
Photo Gordon Chaffin / Street J

Policy and Advocacy News

Regional/National

TAKE CHILLY ACTION on the Climate Crisis: It keeps getting hotter. And we keep seeing bigger storms. The urgency to act is now—not some time in the future. 2021 needs to be the year of climate action in America, nationally, regionally, and locally. Your ANS Advocates are on the case, but we need you too. **Join us for the BRRRR-tual Polar Bear Plunge from Home to “Keep Winter Cold” on February 13!** You can join as an ANS team member or contribute to our team at <https://bit.ly/3ncAUwS>. Help us reach our fundraising goal to support climate action by both ANS and partner organization Chesapeake Climate Action Network!

Maryland

Looking Back

Thrive 2050: In October, ANS held its second virtual Thrive at ANS, a bilingual event where Planning Staff presented and took in questions from the public on the county’s new general master plan. In November, ANS testified in front of the Planning Board to add in four more policy recommendations that would strengthen and clarify protections around: forests, green buildings, climate change, and the Agricultural Reserve.

Beltway I-495/I-270 highway expansion: Between August and September, ANS conducted outreach by cohosting three online workshops with our partners where we engaged with over 200 people. On November 9, Sierra Club, Rock Creek Conservancy, ANS and 50 groups released our final 200 pages of technical and legal comments on the final day of the 120-day public comment period for the project’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Interested in getting involved or learning more?

Sign up for our Action Alert Network at <https://anshome.org/sign-up-for-ans-action-alerts/> and visit <http://conservationblog.anshome.org>.

Looking Ahead

2021 MD General Assembly: This year’s General Assembly will present many old and new challenges as we all transition from in-person gatherings and lobbying activities to virtual spaces in our homes. ANS and our statewide environmental partners will be taking a close look at various environmental legislations that we support this 2021 session. Be the first to know and sign up today for upcoming letter writing campaigns, sign-on letter opportunities, and virtual events by filling out a quick interest form at <https://wp.me/P8Kci8-1wQ>.

Washington, DC

Join Ward 8 Water Watchers: ANS recently entered a partnership with DC-based organization, The Green Scheme, to activate community power in Ward 8 around water quality and health. The program, Ward 8 Water Watchers, will consist of a series of family-friendly, fun events at Oxon Run in Southeast DC. We hosted a cleanup in November that found a pickaxe, several scooters, and even an entire pickup truck buried in the stream!



A family participates in an Oxon Run cleanup in partnership with The Green Scheme. Photo Ari Eisenstadt/ANS.

Conservation



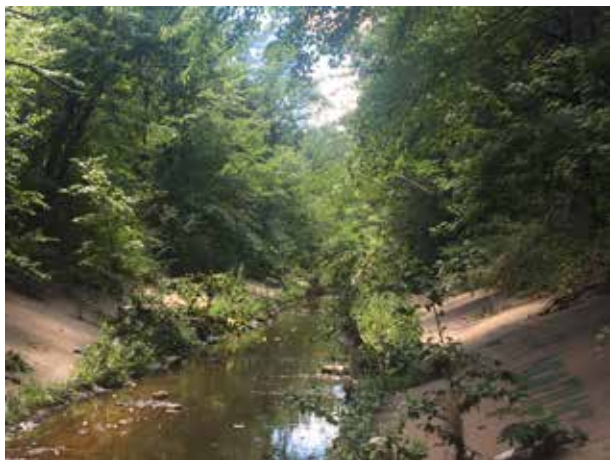
ANS Teams Up With DC Sierra Club to Transition the City Away

from Gas: ANS is working with the DC chapter of the Sierra Club to build awareness and public advocacy efforts around the dangers of methane gas, also known as “natural gas.” Methane poses serious health risks when it is burned in our homes and is also a major contributor to climate change. Washington Gas, the local gas utility, is fighting against a clean energy transition, and we need everyone on board to hold them accountable to DC’s clean energy commitments. The team just received a small grant to help detect gas leaks around the city, and we will need YOU to help us! *Please sign up for our Action Network alerts on how you can participate in leak detection in your neighborhood.*

Virginia

Land use issues continue to be a topic of discussion in Northern Virginia. Re-development must consider how our natural resources will be impacted.

A bright future envisioned with redevelopment: In September, ANS hosted a virtual walk-and-talk of an area of Little Hunting Creek where redevelopment could help to breathe life back into a degraded urban stream channel. Fairfax County staffers Charles Smith and JoAnne Fiebe presented the concept of an “ecological spine” and helped us envision a healthier community through healthier waterways. Watch online: <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/healthier-streams-for-healthier-communities/>



Little Hunting Creek in a culvert south of Alexandria, VA. Fairfax County has opportunities to restore life to this stream channel through redevelopment in the future. Photo Renee Grebe/ANS.

Is an indoor ski slope coming to Fairfax County? A developmental proposal on the Lorton landfill and in the adjacent park is raising eyebrows and environmental concerns: an indoor ski slope slated to produce snow year-round. ANS reviewed the proposal and provided comments in a recent public hearing. We hope the county will explore how to best use the land it has to expand access to nature for all communities, thoroughly examine the proposal’s energy usage and its impact on climate change, and ensure the green space and streams in the adjacent parkland and meadows are not negatively affected. Read more on our blog: <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/fairfax-peak-coming/>

Workshops & Events

Learn more and register for all events below at <https://anshome.org/conservation-events>



- **Live in Loudoun County? Learn to lead conservation projects in your HOA or condo association!** Join us starting **December 3** for our Loudoun County program, Greening Your Neighborhood. You’ll join two ½-day workshops and a tour of green infrastructure projects, and commit to a conservation project in your community. You’ll learn how to lead ecological change. Master Naturalists earn CE credits. **Register:** <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/loudoun-county/>
- Join us for a virtual presentation on Montgomery County’s new draft **Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP)** with Adriana Hochberg on **Thursday, January 14** from 6:30 to 8 pm.
- **Climate Change on Your Block: What does it Look Like in the DMV?** Join us for an evening of discovery and storytelling about climate change and its local impacts. **Wednesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm.**

Virtual Conservation Cafes

Join us online for inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Your \$5-15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! See detailed descriptions and register at anshome.org/conservation-cafe. All programs run from 7-8:30 pm.

- **Thursday, January 14:** Spirituality in Nature with Beth Norcross. A time of transitions and new beginnings.
- **Thursday, February 11:** Lisa Friedman, NYTimes Climate and environment reporter.



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety

Camp Audubon

We had a great six weeks of all outdoor camp last summer! All State and County COVID-19 guidelines were followed, including mandatory masks, health and temperature screenings, and small group sizes. We are planning to run three-week-long sessions of camp in 2021: June 21-July 9, July 12-30, August 2-20. Your child would be with the same 12 campers for three weeks, which limits exposure and keeps everyone safe. Maximum enrollment is for 2 three-week sessions. Questions? Email nora.kelly@anshome.org.

Important Dates:

- Friday, December 4 is the last date to become an ANS member to be eligible for members-only registration.
- A digital only copy of our Camp Catalog will be available in mid-December.
- Thursday, January 21 at 10 am – Sunday, January 24 at 10 am – members-only registration
- Monday, January 25 at 10 am – nonmember registration

"My son so badly needed this time to unplug, get down in the mud, be creative, and most of all get to be around other kids in a safe way. Thank you for this incredible and creative solution that has brought so much joy and interest into his life this summer." – 2020 Camp Parent

"We are so grateful to you for running camps and programs!!! We can't thank you enough!!!! We'd love to go all summer, if possible." – 2020 Camp Parent



Photo by Nora Kelly



Photo by Nora Kelly



Photo by Steven Pearce

Audubon Nature Preschool

We will begin accepting applications for the Audubon Nature Preschool in February. There has never been a better time to prioritize outdoor learning. Why not choose a 40-acre classroom for your child next fall? We focus on nature-based, play-based and child-led experiences with drop-off programs for 3-5 year olds, as well as programs for younger children and their caregivers.

Visit us online in February for details about the 2021-22 school year.
<https://anshome.org/ans-preschool/>



GreenKids®

GreenKids Corner

Due to the many challenges posed by the pandemic and the move to distance learning we are experiencing this school year, ANS has downsized our school programs and condensed our work with DMV schools under the GreenKids umbrella. Since 2005, our grant based GreenKids program has provided schools with free lessons, field trips, teacher training, and grants to schools for learning gardens and outdoor classrooms. We are continuing to provide environmental literacy resources in the virtual environment free of charge to schools this year. We are also pleased to welcome Nate Kinyanjui from the University of Maryland as a GreenKids Intern this year. During the fall, Nate interviewed a diverse group of environmental professionals for an interactive lesson we created on Green Careers for use with MCPS Virtual Outdoor Education programs. This lesson and others will be coming soon to the GreenKids web page. Please check our website regularly for updates on our GreenKids page and resources for teachers!

A screenshot of a web page titled 'Exploring Green Careers' with the Audubon Naturalist Society logo. It features a grid of eight small portrait photos of professionals, each with their name below it. The names are: Paul Williams, Brian Taylor, Anna Smith, Benjamin Smith, Sarah Williams, Beth Smith, Kevin Smith, and Jennifer Smith. A yellow arrow points to the bottom left with the text 'See more videos on the next page!'.



Children and Nature Photos



12



Unplug and Play, our all outdoor program for 6-10 year olds, ran for ten weeks this Fall. Kids enjoyed the outdoors and each other's company after Zoom school was dismissed.



Forest Friends, our hybrid in person/virtual program, serves 3-5 year olds and their caregivers at Woodend. Each week, children enjoy a hike and two nature-themed Zooms, and receive a take home nature activity kit.



Woodend Wanderers, a 3 day/week morning drop-off program, delights our 5-7 year-old learners! The children have been busy exploring Woodend and enjoying Fall finds, such as toads, leaves, mud, and construction trucks.



Adult Nature Programs

These programs offer nature novices and experienced naturalists alike an array of opportunities to explore and learn about our area's natural history. All programs are led by experienced naturalists. Lectures are held at Woodend Sanctuary. Field trips are reached by private vehicle.

Wild places are closer than you think. ®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adults
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Want to become an ANS member and get the member rate? Join at the same time you register for a program.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org

Late Autumn Tree Walk at Theodore Roosevelt Island

Wednesday, December 2 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

WAITLIST
OPEN

Join the local author of *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island* for a seasonal exploration of this 90-acre island in the Potomac River which serves as a fitting memorial to our conservationist and naturalist 26th President—and Audubon Naturalist Society member. This late fall tree walks will take you deep into the island, where swamp and tidal inlet can be explored by boardwalk as willows, bald-cypresses and cattails frame views of the city behind it. In addition to sharing her knowledge and love of the Island's trees, Melanie will share details of this National Park's fascinating history.

Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

K. December 2 – Swain's Lock

L. December 9 – Swain's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk: members \$30; nonmembers \$42

WAITLIST
OPEN

COVID-19 Update: Nature Travel Program

During these challenging times, ANS staff continues to work diligently to keep our community safe and healthy. Given the current state of the pandemic worldwide, we have put on hold any planning for trips in early 2021 – and likely beyond. Please continue to check our website for any updates and/or changes to these plans. We will continue to re-evaluate this pause in our travel program, relying on current scientific and government guidance.

Winter Birding at Black Hill

1: Friday, December 4 (8:30-11 am)

2: Saturday, December 12 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Mark England

Each walk: members \$30; nonmembers \$42

The winter months can be an ideal time to learn more about birds and birding, and Black Hill Regional Park, in upper Montgomery County, is an ideal outdoor classroom. Each walk, intended for beginning to mid-level birders, will explore several sites in the Park in a search for waterfowl, sparrows, woodpeckers, raptors, and other resident and overwintering species. The Park's habitats are varied, and include wetlands and Little Seneca Lake, as well as forest and field. We hope to be able to continue offering this series of walks through March so that participants can observe the seasonal changes in bird numbers, diversity, and behavior. Participants will need to bring their own binoculars, and they are welcome to bring along a spotting scope as well. *Due to Covid precautions, however, there will be no sharing of equipment, such as spotting scopes, by either the leader or participants. Since spaces are limited, thanks for registering for only one of these bird walks.*



A canvasback and redhead pose next to each other, making it (a bit) easier to tell these two similar-looking winter waterfowl apart. Photo by Mike Bowen.

December in the Parks

A: Saturday, December 5: Jug Bay Natural Area, MD (9 am-Noon)

B: Friday, December 11: Huntley Meadows Park, VA (10 am-1 pm)

C: Friday, December 18: Monocacy Aqueduct, MD (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Our Senior Naturalist will lead these seasonal, broad-based nature explorations of nearby parks rich in natural history. Winter is often called the quiet season, but there is still lots to look and listen for in the natural world despite the cold temperatures. We'll work to cover up to 3 miles, with plenty of stops to observe winter wildlife and plants while discussing their strategies for winter survival. Hike A will include a bit of uphill and downhill. Our trails include: a car-free road (A); boardwalk and natural surface forest trails (B); and Canal Towpath (C). *Since spaces are limited, thanks for registering for only one destination.*

Waterfowl Prowl

A: Sunday, December 13 (8:30-11 am)

B: Wednesday, December 16 (8:30-11 am)

Leaders: Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

December is a good time to begin learning how to ID overwintering waterfowl in our area. Typically, local waters are not yet frozen and outdoor temperatures are still comfortable for the birders! We'll base our searches at Gunner's Lake in Germantown, MD, where a trail around the water allows for waterfowl watching with binoculars. While our focus will be waterfowl, we'll keep an eye open for all manner of birdlife in the habitats around the Lake's perimeter. Participants will need to bring their own binoculars, and they are welcome to bring along a spotting scope as well. *Due to Covid precautions, however, there will be no sharing of equipment, such as spotting scopes, by either the leader or participants. Since spaces are limited, thanks for registering for only one of these waterfowl walks.*



Photo of ring-necked duck by Mike Bowen. Peter Cashwell from the National Audubon Society says as field marks go, "ringed-neck" is atrocious and almost never applicable. Perhaps "ring-billed" has a better (and more helpful) ring to it?

COVID-19 Update: Adult Nature Programs

As long as area jurisdictions remain in at least Phase II of Covid 19 precautions, we are planning to offer in-person field trips to natural areas throughout the DMV. Should there be any changes to these plans, we will notify trip participants and all ANS members through e-mails and/or social media.

- Both leaders and participants are required to wear face masks and observe social distancing throughout the field trip.
- Both leaders and participants are required to complete a health questionnaire before participating in the field trip.
- Maximum number of participants for the field trips will range from 5-8, depending on field trip location, trip focus, and leaders' preferences.
- Our winter schedule of field outings will be updated every six weeks or so to add new listings farther out. This "rolling schedule" will help us respond to any changes in the Covid situation which may arise as we move deeper into the winter months.



@ANSNature



Enjoy learning about Natural History topics from the comfort of your own home! Visit www.anshome.org/naturalist-hour for a complete listing of programs with area naturalists and scientists this fall. The time of the program doesn't work for you? No problem. Register and receive a recording of the talk by Saturday of the same week. **Cost is \$12 for ANS members and \$15 for nonmembers.**

Weird Wingless Flies: Why Did They Ditch Their Wings?

Wednesday, December 2 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Dr. Samuel Ramsey, vanEngelsdorp's Lab University of Maryland

Clearly all flies fly, right? Wrong! Dr. Samuel Ramsey, researcher at the vanEngelsdorp's Lab, University of Maryland, explains why some flies have ditched what seems like such a clear advantage for a totally different, and completely fascinating, alternative life cycle. The sheep keds, bat flies, and bee lice have their own little world. Venture through it with us! [REGISTER](#)



Geology and the Battle of Antietam

Tuesday, December 8 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Joe Marx, Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) Adjunct Instructor in Geology

Travel in time with Geology Instructor Joe Marx to the Battle of Antietam in 1862, the bloodiest day in American history. The terrain and underlying bedrock of the battlefield strongly influenced the contest. Learn how the geology of the region decided the outcome. [REGISTER](#)



Conflict and Coexistence: A Story of People and Elephants in the Okavango

Wednesday, December 9 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Dr. Amanda Stronza, Texas A&M University, Co-Director Applied Biodiversity Science Program, Co-Founder of EcoExist

Join Dr. Amanda Stronza, Texas A&M University, Co-Director Applied Biodiversity Science Program, for a night of breathtaking photography and stories about people and elephants in a shared landscape. In the eastern Okavango Panhandle of Botswana, roughly 18,000 elephants compete with 16,000 people for access to water, food, and land. Elephants roam freely, often in the same spaces people use for agriculture, or to walk their children to school. In 2012, a team of researchers joined with community leaders to form Ecoexist, an organization focused on finding ways for humans and elephants to coexist. These are their stories. [REGISTER](#)



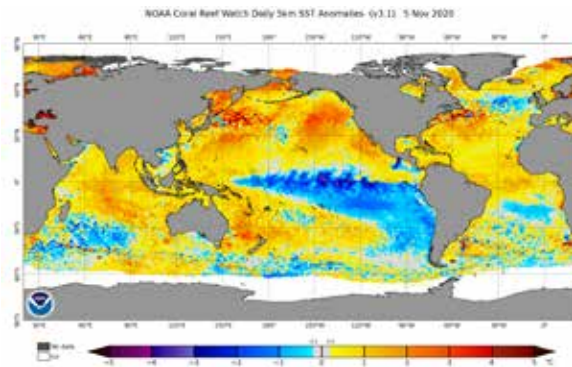
How the Oceans Saved Us

Wednesday, December 10 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Ari Eisenstadt, DC Conservation Advocate, ANS



Every year, the oceans absorb almost a third of all human greenhouse gas emissions. Join ANS Conservation Advocate, Ari Eisenstadt, to learn how biology, chemistry, geology, and physics intersect to make the global oceans a powerful force in the fight against climate change, and what's at risk if the oceans are thrown out of balance. [REGISTER](#)



A Lifetime of Learning in Nature

Tuesday, December 15 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Curtis Bennett, Director of Equity & Community Engagement, National Aquarium



Join National Aquarium Director of Equity & Community Engagement, Curtis Bennett, for a captivating reflection on how nature influenced his path and how the richness of his experiences made him the person he is today. We'll

explore stories about self, wildlife, community and culture. Bring your family along and connect with the commonalities of the human experience. [REGISTER](#)



Flying Reindeer and Other Mushroom Lore

Thursday, December 17 (7-9 pm)

Presenter: Serenella Linares, Manager of Virtual Learning, ANS



Did you know that mushrooms are the reason we believe in flying reindeer? Grab your hot cocoa and join ANS Mycologist Serenella Linares for an evening of stories about how fungi have influenced our holiday traditions and cultural beliefs. [REGISTER](#)



Painting Credits: Danielle Frithson-Olsen



Join us for future AND past Naturalist Hours!

Just in time for holiday gifting, you can now purchase access to recorded programs. Just scroll to the bottom of the [Naturalist Hour registration page](#) to purchase packages by month. And watch for new January programs to be listed in late December.



twitter.com/ANStweets

Natural History Field Studies

This unique continuing education program for adults offers a comprehensive and stimulating view of our region's natural history and conservation issues. Taught at the college freshman level, these evening courses are open to anyone 18 years of age or older—nature professionals and beginning enthusiasts alike. A Certificate of Accomplishment in Natural History is awarded to those choosing to complete a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), but anyone can enroll in any class for the sheer pleasure of learning.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, classes are currently being offered via online Zoom sessions with optional in-person field trips. These locally-based field outings will be limited to groups of 8 participants, with mask-wearing and social distancing required. Registrants can elect to enroll in online classes only, or choose to participate in field trips as well, space permitting. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit [ANShome.org/nhfs](https://anshome.org/nhfs). **Registration for the winter session will be available in mid-December or early January.**

Chesapeake Bay Ecosystems

NATH8216, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: January 25–March 29

Lectures – via Zoom

Field trip dates: TBD

Online lectures only: members \$240,

nonmembers \$265

Online lectures + 2 field trips: members \$300,

nonmembers \$330

Instructor: Terry McTigue

The largest, and at one-time, most productive estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay is an integral part of our natural and national history. This course will focus on the dynamic nature of estuarine environments through study of the interaction between basic physical, chemical and biological cycles and processes in the Bay. Lectures will also discuss the interaction between nutrients and overall productivity affecting the current health of the Chesapeake ecosystems. Effects of pollution, resources management, and the processes that influence temperature and salinity distributions will also be examined. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*



American Conservation History

NATH8252, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: January 19–March 23

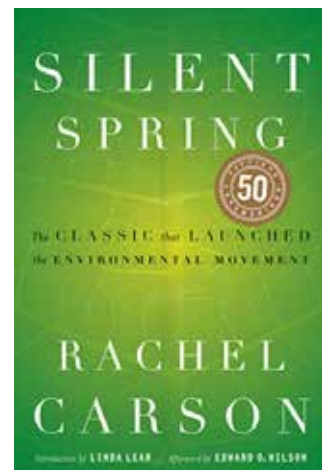
Lectures: via Zoom

Online lectures only: members \$240, nonmembers \$265

Field Trip possible: TBA

Instructor: Jean Mansavage

This course examines the development of environmental conservation thought and practice in the United States from the pre-colonial era through the early twenty-first century—and how past conservation efforts have given rise to our current-day programs. The course also considers how land and natural resources have fundamentally shaped the lives of the country's inhabitants and, in parallel, how Americans' perceptions of the environment and its resources have shaped the natural world. Topics include human views of nature and wilderness; U.S. land dispersal policies; the creation of National Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Refuges; principal conservation policies from 1900- 1964; and the environmental and ecology movements from 1960-2000s. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*



NOTE: The winter schedule is tentative and subject to change before registration opens.

Introduction to Winter Tree ID

NATH7147E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: January 21, February 4, 18, March 4

Lectures: via Zoom

Field trip dates: January 30 &

February 27 (9 am-12 pm)

locations TBA

Online lectures only: members

\$120, nonmembers \$132

Online lectures + 2 field trips:

members \$180, nonmembers

\$198

Instructor: Bradley Simpson

Winter unmasks nature, revealing our local trees in their most skeletal form. Students will be introduced to the ID of the most common trees around the DMV through the study of the “bare bones” of plants – branching structure, bark, buds, and leaf scars. Lectures, reinforced by optional field trips, will help students develop these observational skills while also using clues such as persistent or fallen fruits and leaves, aromatic twigs, and habitat to identify trees in the winter landscape. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*



Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

Registration is now being handled completely online by the Audubon Naturalist Society (not the Graduate School USA) through our adult program registration system. Register for Natural History Field Studies classes at www.anshome.org/nhfs in mid-Dec/early Jan.

Questions? Contact pam.oves@anshome.org.

Refund Policy for NHFS classes: ANS will provide you with a refund (minus a \$25 administration fee) if you cancel your enrollment no later than the day following the first class lecture. After this date, no refunds will be provided. In the event of a course cancellation due to insufficient enrollment or other events beyond our control, we will notify you as soon as possible and provide you with a full refund.



Praise for our Fall 2020 Hybrid NHFS Courses

“I think the Zoom option is terrific and should be retained for at least some classes after the pandemic.”

“Thanks for continuing the NHFS courses during these difficult times.”

“Kudos to staff and teachers who had to redefine how the classes should take place. Thanks so much.”

“The online lectures save me 6 hours a week in commute time, slides are clearer, speaker is easily heard.”



Adults and Nature Photos



Moira Davenport, Barb Nash, and Caryl McNeilly (l-r) model natural masks (aka huge Sycamore tree leaves) on our October 30 Fall Flora Friday walk at Riverbend Park, Va. Photo by Stephanie Mason.



In a photo that seems to glow, Julianne Shinnick captures the bright reds and golds, the softer greens, and the contrasting sapphire sky on our Fall in the Parks trip to Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC, on Halloween.



A late-season Common Buckeye butterfly (*Junonia coenia*) caught the sharp eye of Lorie Leavy at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA in early October.



Kathy Rushing poses at Woodend Nature Sanctuary with one of her first findings during the Intro to Fungi Natural History Field Studies class: *Daedaleopsis confragosa*. Photo by Serenella Linares.

Partner Profile



Dr. Evelyn Cooper, A Woman of Action, and Her Word

Dr. Evelyn E. Cooper, Assistant Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) at the University of Maryland (UMD), is a woman of her word.

Evelyn heard about the Taking Nature Black Conference in 2018 just weeks after it had ended. She was disappointed that she and her students had missed the gathering but was so excited about what she'd read and heard, she told Conference Chair Caroline Brewer to keep her contact information handy so that she not only could attend the next conference, but be a partner in making it happen.

And so, in the fall of 2019, nearly 18 months later, Caroline contacted Evelyn and invited her to join the planning committee and, true to her word, Evelyn said yes. She joined the planning committee, signed up to organize and moderate the Environmental Joy panel, which included six speakers, and also participated as a sponsor! Talk about jumping in with both feet.

And then, just weeks after the 2020 conference ended, Evelyn agreed to help organize the 2021 Conference. For next year's conference, Evelyn will moderate a panel on agriculture and food security, and, once again, will sponsor Taking Nature Black through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

As Assistant Dean for Academic Programs since 2012, Evelyn oversees AGNR's student support services and serves as the Director of Retention, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEAI) initiatives. She has implemented several student programs and initiatives for AGNR and the campus community, including the *Summer Opportunities in Agricultural Research and the Environment* and *Agriculture Discovery*, both geared towards encouraging underrepresented students to pursue agricultural and environmental careers. As an educator and administrator, Evelyn seeks innovative ways to foster a dynamic learning environment and to promote high quality experiences through her leadership.

Evelyn has been involved in university teaching, research, program development and administration at UMD for more than 25 years. She joined UMD from Grambling State University, where she served as an

assistant professor in the Geography, History and Philosophy Department. She earned her Ph.D. and M.S. degree in Geographical Science at UMD and her B.S. degree in Geographical Science with a concentration in Earth Science at North Carolina Central University.

As one of the country's first land-grant institutions, UMD uses its research, educational, cultural, and technological strengths in partnership with state, federal, private, and non-profit sectors to promote economic development and improve quality of life in the State of Maryland.

Chartered as the Maryland Agricultural College on March 6, 1856, AGNR is the cornerstone of the UMD system, built upon a foundation of sound science, ground breaking research, and Maryland pride. AGNR embodies the University's land-grant mission with a commitment to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, preserve our natural resources, improve quality of life, and empower the next generation through world-class education. AGNR aims to prepare students who will excel in multicultural environments and thrive in the global community. Diversity among students, faculty and staff is essential to this mission.

ANS is thrilled to join with Evelyn and the University of Maryland to support another exciting, uplifting, and educational Taking Nature Black Conference. We hope you'll join us. Learn more at www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black.



Stream Science

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

In spite of the pandemic, ANS volunteer water quality monitoring teams conducted biological, chemical and physical stream assessments at 19 of 29 stream sites in October. While we are not taking new volunteers into the program at this time, we are thrilled that so many team leaders and volunteers have been able to continue gathering data on the health of our streams.

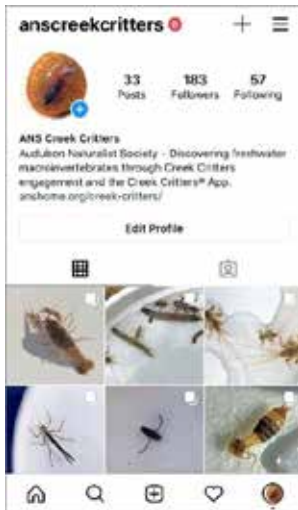
Breaking News: ANS monitoring data is more accessible to Maryland environmental regulators!

In September, it became easier for ANS to make its stream monitoring data accessible to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) when MDE announced that it will begin “partnering with the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) to obtain non-governmental organization and citizen data for assessing water quality for the Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality.” ANS has been submitting its stream monitoring data to the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative for several years and we are encouraged that MDE will be “striving to incorporate more NGO and citizen data into the Integrated Report.”

Go to <https://cmc.vims.edu/> to see the Chesapeake Data Explorer, where you can choose Station Type: Benthic Macroinvertebrate and zoom in to see **AND DOWNLOAD** data from ANS stream sites all the way back to the 1990s.

Stream Science Classes

Watch your email and online for upcoming announcements on our winter Water Quality Monitoring classes, particularly the Advanced Series of Aquatic Insect Family ID, which will be taught online by Cathy Wiss. Team leaders will still be asked to pass a macroinvertebrate ID quiz as usual before spring monitoring, and will have access to the online classes for review. Contact cleanstreams@anshome.org for more information.



CREEK CRITTERS®

Looking for an outdoor activity for yourself, family and friends? Head to a local stream, find and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, learn what the critters tell you about the health of the stream, and submit your findings. ANS's free CREEK CRITTERS® app will guide you!

Visit <https://anshome.org/creek-critters/> for more information.

CREEK CRITTERS® stream health reports are displayed in the Izaak Walton League of America's Clean Water Hub <https://www.cleanwaterhub.org/>. Want to learn about the IWLA Clean Water Hub? Check out the short videos at <https://www.iwla.org/water/resources-for-monitors>.

Don't forget to check out @anscreekcritters on Instagram!

DC BACTERIA MONITORING

ANS wrapped up our second year participating in the DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. The project was funded by DOEE and led by Anacostia Riverkeeper. ANS worked closely with Rock Creek Conservancy to deploy 27 volunteers to test 9 sites in the Rock Creek watershed for E.coli, a fecal contamination indicator. Read about what we found at conservationblog.anshome.org. And guess what: there is a lot of bacteria in DC's streams, particularly in Rock Creek Park! Make sure you wash carefully after any contact with water, and avoid it altogether after rains.





The DMV is home to six resident woodpecker species, but did you know another woodpecker spends the winter in our area? The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker makes a cat-like mew sound and drills shallow, horizontal rows of holes in trees to harvest sap. They favor birch and maple trees, but often use Tulip Tree while overwintering here. Photo by ANS bird walk leader Mike Bowen.



Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*) are tall stately white wading birds in the Heron family, found in fresh and saltwater wetlands in our area. They are opportunistic foragers, hunting for fish, crustaceans and amphibians. Egrets fly with slow, deep wingbeats, with their necks tucked in and long black legs trailing behind. During breeding season, the males grow long plumes of feathers for their mating displays; they were almost hunted to extinction in the late 1800's for these feathers, used to adorn ladies' hats. Photo and text by Jim Graeter.

25



Phylloporus rhodoxanthus: This is truly a confused fungus. Is it a bolete, or does it have gills? Well this guy is both! If you manage to find it fresh (especially during summer and fall) you might even see it stain blue! This buddy has brownish to reddish cap and gills that range from pale to golden yellow. Can I tell you a secret? This fungus also connects to the roots of hardwoods and helps them communicate with each other through the wood-wide web. How cool is that! Photo and text by Serenella Linares.

America's Conservation Enhancement Act - Good Environmental Legislation for our Region

by Peter Marx, Federal Affairs Contractor, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Even in times of turmoil in our nation, we can report good news about environmental legislation that passed both chambers of Congress unanimously and was signed into law on October 30, 2020. America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE) is a broad national conservation bill that helps protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers and streams in the Bay watershed. The bill accomplishes the following important conservation and restoration objectives:

- **Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program:** The EPA Chesapeake Bay Program was first authorized in 1987 to fund Bay clean-up programs at the federal, state, and local level in partnership with conservation and educational institutions. The Bay Program's funding authorization technically expired in 2005. ACE reauthorizes Bay Program funding for the next five years and increases that funding from \$85 million to \$92 million by 2025.
- **Chesapeake WILD (Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense):** This brand new program creates and authorizes \$15 million in annual funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a grant program to restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Bay watershed covers 64,000 square miles and includes the entire DC metro region.
- **National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Program:** ACE reauthorizes this important program for five more years. Through the Gateways and Watertrails Program, the National Park Service works with state and local partners to promote increased public access to natural, historic, and cultural landscapes around the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF):** ACE reauthorizes NFWF so that it can continue to award grants that provide critical support for community groups to work on watershed restoration projects. NFWF provided technical assistance funding for the design for ANS's Nature for All stream restoration project.
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act:** ACE reauthorizes this program that provides matching grants to wetlands conservation projects that support bird populations and wetland habitat for 5 years at \$60 million per year.



Photo of Hooded Merganser by Jane Gamble

Members of Congress in the Chesapeake Bay delegation, including Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Representatives Elaine Luria, John Sarbanes, Bobby Scott, and Rob Wittman, and Senators Shelley Moore Capito, Ben Cardin, Tom Carper, and Chris Van Hollen, worked diligently to make enactment of America's Conservation Enhancement Act possible.

THANK YOU

ANS thanks our members of Congress, and our partners in the Choose Clean Water Coalition, for making sure that clean water and healthy habitats continue to win the important federal support they deserve, whatever the political climate! ANS is a founding member of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, serves on its Steering Committee, and ANS Executive Director Lisa Alexander has been co-chair of the Coalition since 2019.

Volunteer Corner

An occasional feature that highlights the many and varied opportunities and volunteers of ANS

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

This quarter I ran out of time to select someone to interview. To say that things have been busy at ANS might seem like a paradox to our volunteers because we've asked you, for safety reasons, largely to stay home. That's beginning to change, and I hope that you'll be able to work with us soon. Here's a little about how you can help.

First of all, every volunteer can help, by taking our Volunteer Training, in three simple steps:

1. Watch the [15 minute video](#) that's linked on your Volgistics portal home page
2. Take the short post-training [survey](#) that's linked in the video description
3. Log your time in Volgistics (use the code "Administration, General" on the Time Sheet)

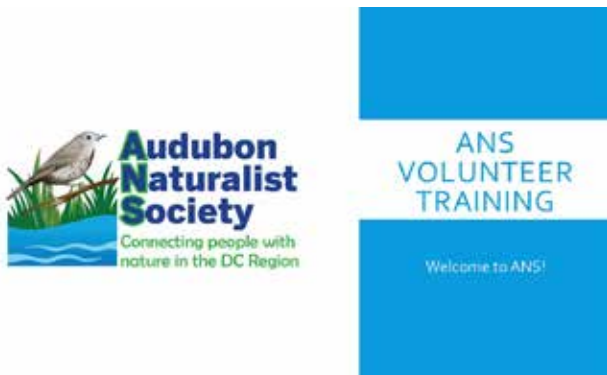
Next, you can subscribe to our Conservation Blog and Action Networks at www.anshome.org/conservation. Yes, letter-writing counts as volunteer service, so please record your hours. You can use the "Administration, General" code or the appropriate Conservation Advocate (DC, MD, VA) code if it's available to you.

Finally, restoration volunteers can join us outside. Sign up for open spaces in the "Pilot Reopening" category to help with invasive plant removal, meadow restoration, or garden work.

Of course, as more opportunities become available I'll let you know about them. Keep an eye on your email.

I miss seeing you; it has been good to run into a handful of you from time to time.

Last, but not least, a heart-felt thank you and congratulations to the Newly minted MD Master Naturalist Interns. This year we hosted the course on Zoom for the first time ever. It was challenging, fun and rewarding! Of course, the completion of the course also marks the official end of the 2019 students' internship year; they're officially certified MD Master Naturalists!



Meet the Plants at Woodend in Winter

by Jenny Brown, Garden Outreach Associate

Winter is coming. What's a gardener to do? In our native plant gardens at Woodend, we don't do very much at all! We have left the perennial plant stalks to brown and dry up. They provide shelter to wildlife that nestles under leaf litter, inside dry plant stems or under bark. Hidden insect egg cases ride out the cold in a semi-frozen state. Birds feed on seed heads, tree nuts and berries. Evergreens provide shelter from wind and predators. Chipmunks, squirrels and foxes leave tracks in mud or snow. So really, what's a gardener to do? I, for one, will take this opportunity to really notice the shape of the land; its dips and rises and flats. I'll bundle up and relish being out in all kinds of weather. Maybe, I'll finally learn the names of all the cloud types. I'll try to spot the wildlife or signs of wildlife activity in the gardens, meadows and woods. This winter, I'll be very busy watching nature at work while I wait for the first signs of spring and a return to gardening.



The goldenrod in our meadows will stay in place until spring mowing, providing food and cover in the winter months.



The evergreen holly is like a bed and breakfast for birds.



Thanks for Joining Us Online!

2020 ANS Annual Meeting Re-Cap: Charting the Path Forward



Our first virtual Annual Meeting was a memorable one. Although we missed the chance to gather in person, catch up over wine, hors d'oeuvres, a mouthwatering meal and desserts, we were treated to five videos bursting with vivid and colorful highlights of exciting work for our environment, under the most challenging circumstances. Watch all of our videos on our [YouTube channel](#). Please remember to click the red SUBSCRIBE button. And enjoy this excerpt of remarks by ANS President Nancy Pielemeier (pictured left) on October 22, 2020.

Last year at this time, we were celebrating reaching our goal for the Nature for All campaign to restore Woodend Sanctuary. Not a single one of us would have predicted that a global pandemic would sweep ANS in a new direction by the spring of 2020, but sweep it did.

When COVID-19 hit, we, of course, had to close everything – the offices, the shop, school programs, summer camp, weddings too – all of it. And then, due to heartbreaking violence and threats against people of color, our nation rose up in protest and in defense

of racial and social justice. And all while this was happening, John James Audubon, the man, was exposed to be an owner of enslaved people and a white supremacist. Oh my, what a year.

But the bright spot during this dark time is that the ANS staff, who together with the Board, leaned in and did an amazing pivot so that we could keep delivering on our mission work under conditions none of us had ever experienced before.

Here are just some of the remarkable things the ANS staff has accomplished since March:

- Hosted the most successful Birdathon ever, raising enough money to cover both our Birdathon fundraising goal, and the fundraising target for Audubon After Dark. Thank you to all ANS members who supported us. You made a huge difference.
- Moved our Conservation Cafes to the online platform, within just one week's time!
- Created an entire edition of the Naturalist Quarterly devoted to the social and environmental justice issues.
- Delivered high quality, early childhood education via Zoom and YouTube to help stressed preschool families stay connected to nature.
- Created a brand-new cohort of Northern Virginia environmental activists working to save green spaces and waterways in Fairfax City and beyond.
- Helped found a new coalition, the Maryland Advocates for Sustainable Transit (MAST), to fight the Beltway expansion.
- Turned staff apartments into video studios so that we could continue to deliver our Garbology lessons to kids in DC public schools.
- Got all Nature for All permits approved so that construction could finally begin on our stream restoration and wheelchair accessible nature trail.
- Reopened our Shop first for online for delivery, then for pick up, then for in person shopping.
- Created the new and wonderfully popular Naturalist Hour talks to keep adults in our region connected to nature through virtual presentations by diverse naturalists.

And our wonderful, creative staff dug into all the rules and regulations and figured out how to safely host small adult classes and wedding gatherings at Woodend and small, socially distanced summer camps - because parents and children needed that time in nature more than ever before!

So, it's been a year like no other. But thanks to your membership dues, your participation in our programs, your generosity during this crisis, and your wonderful words of encouragement, ANS is poised to emerge from behind these dark clouds, stronger than ever!



The fight led by ANS Advocate Renee Grebe to save the North Fork of the Accotink Creek in Fairfax City, VA—home to fish, salamanders, frogs and other wildlife—resulted in new members and advocates for ANS and Northern Virginia. This photo by Renee Grebe was taken upstream from the Northfax West property, on the property of the Assembly Homeowners Association.



Front walkway to the Woodend Mansion paved with new wildflowers and shrubs as part of our Nature for All Restoration project.

Photo by Alison Pearce



2020 ANS Annual Meeting Re-Cap: Meet Our New Board Members



Carolyn Peirce, as Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committees for Audubon Naturalist Society, had the honor to thank three outgoing ANS Board Members who served us well during their tenures, and especially recently as we navigated through the pandemic.

Gregg Petersen, who served on the Board since 2018, clocked countless hours as a Water Quality Monitoring volunteer and his dedication to the Nature for All Capital Campaign Leadership Team helped ensure that we reached our ambitious fundraising goal. Ryan Matney, who served on the Board since 2017, came to know ANS by sending his children to our Nature Preschool, and then devoted his professional experience in non-profit finances with ANS. Longtime ANS member Scott Fosler joined the Board of Directors in 2014 and stepped up to the President's seat

from 2017-2019. It was during Scott's tenure as President that ANS launched and completed our Nature for All campaign. Scott played a leading role in helping ANS secure a \$200,000 capital grant from Montgomery County for our Nature for All projects. In his spare time, Scott also chaired the Climate and Conservation Task Force that set new and important goals for ANS' ongoing conservation advocacy work in the future.

Carolyn also noted that it was her "great pleasure" to introduce our newest slate of Board Candidates, the most diverse slate of candidates in ANS history. The entire slate was voted in. Learn more about them below.

Rebecca Lemos-Otero

Rebecca Lemos-Otero of Washington, DC, is founder of City Blossoms. City Blossoms is a high-functioning, creative organization dedicated to supporting kid-driven, community-engaging green spaces. Rebecca has more than 20 years of non-profit, design, and management experience. She has been honored as an ANS Environmental Champion at our Naturally Latinos Conference and has been a panel moderator for Naturally Latinos as well. Rebecca's favorite place in nature is Rock Creek Park.

"I believe my expertise gained from leading and working with a non-profit Board will serve the ANS's Board of Directors well."



Chanceé Lundy

Chanceé Lundy is co-owner and Principal of Nspiregreen, a firm that combines engineering and urban planning with community organizing. InspireGreen is dedicated to fulfilling a vision that facilitates the empowerment and transformation of every community through environmental planning. This community conscious engineer has partnered with ANS as a panelist at our Taking Nature Black Conference. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband, Dwight Russell, and their rambunctious little boy, Amari. Her favorite place in nature is anywhere with a beach.

"I'm excited to connect ANS to diverse nature-based organizations in the DC metro region."



Shanita Rasheed

Shanita Rasheed coordinates all communications for American Forests' urban forestry programs using a Tree Equity lens. Shanita has worked with local and national organizations including the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Children's Environmental Health Network to lead strategic planning and training initiatives. She served as a consultant on the ANS IDEA Task Force and as a volunteer on the Climate & Conservation Task Force. She grew up in Philadelphia and now calls Silver Spring her second home. Shanita's favorite place in nature is the mountains in Colorado.

"I look forward to helping build up ANS's membership base during my service on the Board of Directors."



Alan Spears

Alan Spears is Senior Director for Cultural Resources at the National Parks Conservation Association. Alan uses real-life stories and a conversational style to connect audiences to the National Park Service's historic and cultural resources. Alan's recent victories include securing designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad and Birmingham Civil Rights National Monuments. He was an original member of the ANS Woodend 2065 Council, was honored as an ANS Environmental Champion at the 2018 TNB Conference, and serves on the ANS Woodend 2065 Committee. Alan's favorite place in nature is Gettysburg National Military Park.

"I am interested in engaging in the conservation about the name Audubon and what that means for ANS going forward."



Willie Woode

Wilfred Quasie-Woode (Willie Woode) hails from Freetown, Sierra Leone and lives in Prince George's County, MD. Willie is the Senior Conservation Specialist at the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Willie is in charge of the agricultural component Chesapeake Bay Preservation program for Fairfax County. He represents the Soil and Water Conservation District on regional, state, and local level environmental committees. Willie is a member of the ANS's Woodend 2065 Committee and his favorite place in nature is South Africa.

"I look forward to learning from all the talented people on the ANS Board of Directors and sharing my expertise as well."



Restoration

Out of the Starting Gates!

by Alison Pearce, Deputy Director

Over the past two years, we have been working behind the scenes with engineers, landscape architects and lawyers to design and permit a set of projects that will transform both the habitats and the visitor experience at Woodend. We are happy to report that construction is now finally underway for a stream restoration and a wheelchair accessible nature trail.

This project will heal the scoured banks of Woodend's stream with stone and log dams that will gently slow stormwater through a series of small waterfalls. At the same time, the degraded nature trail will get regraded to meet wheelchair accessibility standards for outdoor spaces. It will be surfaced with gravel that is bonded with a special polymer. The bonded gravel won't shift under wheelchair wheels, but stormwater will soak through into the earth below.

For the first time ever, people of all abilities, including those who use wheelchairs, walkers and strollers, will be able to visit ALL of Woodend's habitats including our meadows, forest, stream and pond. And we are especially proud that as part of Nature for All, 24 acres of Woodend's forest will be placed under a permanent forest conservation easement. That means we've protected these precious forest acres, inside the Beltway, FOREVER! The last, and most important step, will be the installation of thousands of native trees, shrubs and understory plants in and around Woodend's forest, stream and pond.

We've hired Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting to help us with this massive enterprise that will restore important habitats while making nature accessible for more people in our region. We expect the work to take at least 10 months to complete. Portions of Woodend will not be open to visitors while the work is completed. But it is a great time to visit the gardens and meadows outside of the construction zones.

Now, more than ever, people need nature to recharge, reconnect and tap into what matters most. ANS is committed to providing that connection through Nature for All. We want to thank our generous members and supporters for making Nature for All a reality. Our shared vision, your generosity, and lots of hard work will make our dreams for Woodend Nature Sanctuary come true.



Banners inform visitors about our improvements in progress. To find out more yourself, go to www.anshome.org/woodend-restoration.



The construction haul road will become the wheelchair-accessible trail. Orange construction fence marks the limits of disturbance and keeps construction vehicles away from trees. Filter logs are used for sediment control rather than silt fence to maximize protection of tree roots.

Nature for All is unfolding right before our eyes!

The ANS headquarters is changing its look - inside and out!

Come visit our Woodend Nature Sanctuary this winter and soak in the look of our new vibrantly-colored welcome banners. The banners were installed in October at the Jones Mill Road entrance, with help from ANS staff, Executive Director Lisa Alexander, and Kathy Hughes, Creative Services Director of the Gecko Group, our design consultants.

Gecko is also helping ANS give visitors to the Woodend mansion a thrilling reception with the design and installation of our new Nature for All donor wall. The balmy blue background becomes the sky for our donors, whose names are engraved on images of pileated woodpeckers, Northern cardinals, American robins, tree swallows, Eastern bluebirds, and tufted titmice in flight. While the mansion is only open to rental events for the foreseeable future, we look forward to the day when we can invite you to step inside to look up and all around in 360 degrees and tip your hat to the wonderful, generous people who are helping ANS make Nature for All a reality.



Permeable pavers

Coming soon! By the end of 2020, two main asphalt parking areas at Woodend will be replaced with permeable pavers. This project will be a major step toward achieving ANS's goal of treating 100% of our stormwater before it leaves the property. Check anshome.org/visit for information on parking area closures and noise alerts. And enjoy the clean water friendly parking areas in 2021.



Visit Woodend Online or In Person

We are so excited to have the stream and trail restoration projects underway at Woodend. However, it does mean that our main nature trail will not be open for visitors for a few months during the construction. Visitors may also need to be a little patient with construction vehicles along the driveway. There is still plenty to see and do at Woodend. It is a great time to visit our gardens and meadows that remain largely unaffected by the projects.

To find out more about Woodend, please check out our recently updated Visit page: <https://anshome.org/visit/>

You can also keep up with our restoration progress online at: <https://anshome.org/woodend-restoration/>

Thank you to the U.S. Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture for being a Diamond Level/\$25,000 Sponsor for our Naturally Latinos and Taking Nature Black Conferences.



Thank you to the National Trust for Public Land for being a Gold Level/\$10,000 Sponsor for our Naturally Latinos and Taking Nature Black Conferences.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



Erin Kelleher Photography

Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion

Climate-controlled tent included
woodendsanctuary.org



Amazing venue for a safe, fun microwedding!

"While we had selected the venue and had nearly finished planning a 90-person event pre-COVID, we found that Woodend's outdoor ceremony location and open-air, tented reception area were perfect for allowing us to still have a small event where we and our guests could feel safe and comfortable. Woodend is the most peaceful, beautiful place we could have imagined to get married and will always hold a special place in our hearts."

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS August-October 2020

IN HONOR OF:

Beatriz Engel

Christine Parker Hunt

Avi Kirschbaum

Tom, Mimi & PopPop

Louise Lees

Alison, Dave, Evelyn, Rick, Brian & Mary Beth

Bill Yeaman

Gerard Donahue

Adria Zeldin

Jordan, Jess & Paige

IN MEMORY OF:

Steve Boehm

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Susan Hurst Calderone

The Adasczik & Aloï Families; AVC Team; Amy Berman; Lindsay Calderone; Chhabra Family; Katherine & Amelia Ingram; Jared Joiner; Sharon Kruse; Melissa Martinez; George Oleson; Linda, Ted & Julia Rosen; Karen & Bill Saum; Ira Symes; Anne Walbridge; Jeremy Wallenberg; Diane Wax; Nancy Weiss

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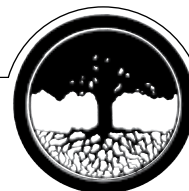
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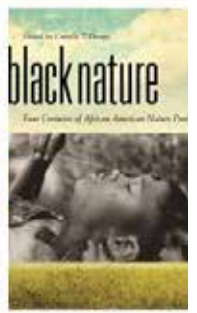
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WOODEND NATURE SANCTUARY

Celebrate Life

"Thank you for your help while organizing my father's memorial. It went really well, and I couldn't have imagined a better spot to hold it."

J. F., Washington, D.C.



Celebrate the life of your loved one at historic Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

When you need a place to remember and share fond memories of your loved one with family and friends, consider historic Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion.

Nestled on a 40-acre nature sanctuary, Woodend is conveniently located in Chevy Chase, MD, and offers a private setting with planning support, on-site parking, and excellent catering options, so you can focus on what matters most to you in moments like this.

Qualified Distribution from an IRA*

As you consider your year-end giving, keep in mind that you can make a gift to ANS from your IRA. Although a Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA has been suspended for 2020 through the CARES Act, a qualified charitable distribution to ANS from your IRA will not be treated as a taxable distribution.

All you do is instruct your IRA administrator to make a transfer from the IRA directly to Audubon Naturalist Society. Most administrators already have forms and procedures in place to make this transfer.

For more information about these gifts, go to www.anshome.org/support or contact Jacky Wershbale at jacky.wershbale@anshome.org.

*ANS does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax advisors before engaging in any transaction.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

For up-to-date info on Covid and ANS programming, visit www.anshome.org/covid

Education programs are held at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society's 40-acre Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, unless otherwise noted. All education programs except Nature Travel have online registration. You may also register in person in the EE office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. You will be notified immediately if the program is full; otherwise, confirmation letters will be emailed 1-2 weeks before the scheduled program.

Lectures are held at our Woodend Sanctuary, and field trip transportation is by private vehicle or carpool unless otherwise noted. Most programs are limited to 16 participants and also have a minimum enrollment, so early registration is important to ensure that programs run. Unless otherwise noted, weekend adult foray program fees do not include meals or lodging.

Because our programs rely on registration fees for funding, we have adopted this policy:

- Cancellations must be made at least six working days before the beginning of the program to be eligible for a credit to your account, less a \$5 administrative fee.
- If an adult foray is cancelled by ANS due to low enrollment, you will receive a full refund. If a weather-related concern or another issue outside of ANS's control forces a cancellation, you will receive a full credit to your account.
- Nature travel programs have different cancellation policies, explained on the information sheet sent on request.

ANS is committed to addressing problems when they occur. Program participants are encouraged to bring problems or concerns of any kind directly to the staff member in charge of the program. Staff members will try to resolve the problem immediately or as soon as reasonably possible. If staff is unable to do so, they are expected to bring the problem to the attention of their immediate supervisor or member of the Senior Management Team, who will take responsibility for seeking a resolution. Program participants are welcome to bring unresolved problems or concerns to the attention of the Executive Director. The Executive Director's decision on resolution of the problem is final.

Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the

Audubon Naturalist

Society 75493 in the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



Keep fighting for nature with a special year-end gift to ANS!

Connecting people to nature and fighting to protect our precious natural environment is at the heart of everything we do.

We have so much ground to make up and so much work to do to ensure that we can preserve our region's natural areas, protect clean water, and educate nature stewards for generations to come.

But this is only possible with the help of members like you.

As you consider your year-end giving, **please give where you live**. Whether you can send \$25, \$50, \$100 or even \$500, every dollar counts. **With your generous support**, ANS will continue to defend local habitats and wildlife, protect our streams, and teach people of all ages about the natural world right here at home.

We need to raise \$50,000 before December 31. Please help us reach our goal with a special gift today. You can donate online at anshome.org/give.

Thank you.



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